

Tax Cuts

● (1410)

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMYREQUEST FOR TABLING OF ALL FORECASTS AND ANALYSES FOR
1977—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The urgent and pressing nature of this motion concerns itself with the unacceptable silence of the government regarding its available economic forecasts related to unemployment, job creation, real growth and inflation for the year 1977 during a period when such respected bodies as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the University of Toronto's Institute for Policy Analysis and the Conference Board of Canada in general forecast for 1977, 8 per cent unemployment, 3 per cent real growth, higher inflation and the real possibility of a recession.

In light of the above and the desire of most Canadians to remove this veil of secrecy in order to have some indication of what the economic climate of this country will be in 1977, I move, seconded by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens):

That this House urge the Minister of Finance to table without further delay all economic analysis and forecasts for the year 1977 which deal with unemployment, job creation, real growth and inflation.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to the presentation of such a motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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FINANCESUGGESTED TAX CUTS FOR LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME
GROUPS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to ask the unanimous consent of the House to deal with a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In view of the fact that every major economic forecaster in Canada, including the Conference Board, is predicting even higher levels of unemployment in the coming year, I move, seconded by the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth):

That this House urge the government to bring in a budget when the House reconvenes in the next year with tax cuts for the middle and lower income groups which will stimulate weak consumer demand, eliminate excess capacity in our industry and create needed jobs without inflating the economy.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion under Standing Order 43 cannot be presented to the House without the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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AUDITOR GENERALGUIDELINES FOR AUDITING BOOKS OF UNITED DEVELOPMENT
INCORPORATED OF ISRAEL—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Rod Blaker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under the provisions of Standing Order 43, and I have some reason to believe there will be unanimous consent to this motion as a result of some considerations and deliberations during the lunch hour.

Whereas the Standing Committee on Public Accounts has been made aware of the terms which the Auditor General has set in order that he might accept an invitation by United Development Incorporated of Tel Aviv, Israel, to carry out an audit of that company's books as they relate to the Atomic Energy of Canada sale of a CANDU reactor to South Korea; and whereas the Auditor General has expressed the concern that his mandate to parliament might obligate him to disclose information related to the business of United Development Incorporated which goes beyond the transactions of United Development Incorporated vis-à-vis Atomic Energy of Canada Limited; and whereas it is in the interests of the Public Accounts Committee and of the House of Commons and of the people of Canada that the Auditor General does accept the said invitation and report thereon to the committee, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp):

That this House advise the Auditor General of Canada of its desire that he accept the invitation of United Development Incorporated to audit the books of that company in Israel, and that this House further advise the Auditor General that his report thereon be restricted to those matters which relate to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited transaction and involve no matters related to the other business affairs of United Development Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker: The motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 can only be presented for debate at this time with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we did not deny the unanimity required to permit the hon. member to present this motion, but there are a few words about it which I would like to say. We understand the stated purpose of the motion, namely, that the Auditor General have our approval when he comes back from Tel Aviv not to disclose matters which might come before his eyes other than those related to the transaction between Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and the purchasers of CANDU reactors through Mr. Eisenberg. However, the phrase at the end of the motion bothers us. I refer to the phrase which says that these inquiries by the Auditor General shall involve no matters